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Colonial Representation

IN

... London. ...



OUR SELF GOVERNING COLONIES.

HOW THEIR

INTERESTS ARE PROMOTED. . .

IN THE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Illustrated with

PORTRAITS OF COLONIAL REPRESENTATIVES.

From Sell's "Dictionary of the World's Press," 1900.

COLONIAL REPRESENTATION IN LONDON.

OUR SELF-GOVERNING COLONIES.

How their Interests are Promoted in the United Kingdom.

ILLUSTRATED WITH PORTRAITS OF COLONIAL REPRESENTATIVES.

THE Empire's self-governing Colonies are represented here by a High Commissioner in the case of Canada and by Agents-General in the case of the Cape of Good Hope, Natal, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. The Canadian Provinces of British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, have also Agents-General; their status is interesting in view of Australian Federation, and may be gathered from the perusal of Mr. Duff-Miller's commission appointing him Agent-General for New Brunswick. It runs as follows:—



“VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, QUEEN, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.

(Signed) **JNO. JAS. FRASER.*** To our TRUSTY AND WELL-BELOVED CHARLES ALEXANDER DUFF MILLER, OF LONDON, S.E., ENGLAND, GENTLEMAN.

“REPOSING especial trust and confidence in your experience, loyalty, skill and integrity, WE have nominated, constituted and appointed, and by these PRESENTS do nominate, constitute and appoint You the said CHARLES ALEXANDER DUFF MILLER, to be during our pleasure, AGENT-GENERAL of our said PROVINCE of NEW BRUNSWICK, in Great Britain and Ireland, hereby giving and granting unto You full power and authority to do perform and execute all and singular such acts, powers, duties and things as pertain to the office Agent of this Province, in Great Britain, and as may be imposed upon and required of You, under our instructions, from time to time, lawfully to do, perform and execute. To HAVE, HOLD, EXERCISE AND ENJOY the said office, but so as not to interfere with the rights, dignities, privileges and duties of the HIGH COMMISSIONER for the Dominion of Canada, in the United Kingdom.

* The signatories to this commission, Jno. Jas. Fraser and James Mitchell, are respectively the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province and the Provincial Secretary.

"GIVEN under the GREAT SEAL of our PROVINCE of NEW BRUNSWICK :
 WITNESS Our trusty and well-beloved THE HONORABLE JOHN JAMES
 FRASER, Lieutenant Governor of our said Province, at FREDERICTON,
 the EIGHTEENTH day of FEBRUARY, in the Year of our Lord One
 Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety Six and in the Fifty Ninth
 year of our Reign.

"BY COMMAND OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

(Signed) "JAMES MITCHELL."*

The superior title given to Canada's representative is due to the fact that Canada is a federation of colonies ; therefore, the official head in the United Kingdom has wider interests to promote than has the Agent-General of a single Colony. When the Australian Colonies have been federated, there will probably be a High Commissioner for Australasia ; and when our African possessions have undergone similar development there will probably be a High Commissioner for British Africa. Meanwhile the office of the High Commissioner and the offices of the Agents-General, allowance being made for differences in the magnitude of the countries they severally represent, are run on much the same lines and have each the same aim—the development of the resources and trade of that part of the empire each is connected with. These offices consequently provide pretty much the same facilities ; they are even for the most part in the same locality, Victoria Street, Westminster.

As to the facilities, a member of the Press, or the law, or a man of business, or indeed any one, wishing to have any point cleared up regarding Canada, say, would go to the High Commissioner's Office, where unless he could be answered over the counter, so to speak, he would have the privilege of consulting the excellent reference library kept in the office. Then when colonists come here on a visit, they usually make for the office of their own colony. There they see their leading newspapers which are kept on file and have their letters received and forwarded to them wherever they may be. If a Colonist wishes to go to the House of Commons or to see a procession or anything requiring a pass, he goes to his Agent-General and gets what he wants through him.

These are rather of the nature of incidental duties—the main duty of an Agent-General being to act for the different Government departments of his own Colony. He is, therefore, called *Agent-General*—Agent to Government departments *generally*. Whatever any Government department wants done, he will do—buy or sell or give away, engage a policeman, or a schoolmaster, or a railway booking clerk or general-manager, or a commanding officer for Colonial forces, borrow money, pay pensions, and so forth.

As to the work of his office, the High Commissioner says :—" Apart from the heavy correspondence with the departments in Ottawa and those in London, and on emigration and other matters, the actual number of letters received relating to trade and commerce numbered last year, 1,231. Several letters have frequently to be written about one inquiry, and personal investigation is also frequently necessary. Besides the correspondence, the number of callers during the year numbered 12,573. Of these 1,680 were Canadians who registered ; and the balance, deducting a proportion for duplicate calls on the part of Canadian visitors, represent inquiries for information on emigration, on trade and commerce, and on general matters, and it is safe to say that at least one half the number related to questions of trade. Our inquiries have not only come from

* The signatories to this commission, Jno. Jas. Fraser and James Mitchell, are respectively the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province and the Provincial Secretary.

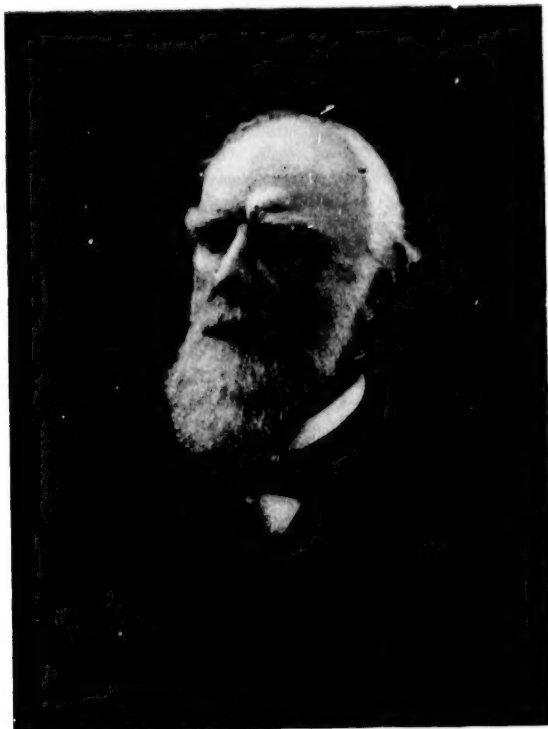
the United Kingdom and from Canada, but there is a growing correspondence with continental countries, which are also becoming interested in the development of Canadian commerce." From what the High Commissioner says of his office, a general idea of what goes on in the other Colonial Offices in London may be gathered.

As to the Colonies being represented in the Home Parliament by their Agents-General—a point once mooted in connection with Imperial Federation—the compiler of this article has gathered in the course of the numerous interviews he has had at the different Agencies that it is regarded as a scheme not likely to be ever realised, and moreover as one fraught with inconvenience. "For instance," and though these are not the exact words used in any one case, they represent the prevailing opinion. "suppose the Agent-General had some important business he wished to get through with, say, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and suppose a Government proposal were before the House of Commons that he disapproved of, if he voted according to his convictions he would offend the man he was next morning going to call on and whose good graces he might be desirous of cultivating; and if he voted against his convictions, well—but you can finish the argument yourself!"

We proceed to give a few details of each, interspersed with biographical notes and the portraits of the chiefs—the order observed being according to the year the several colonies received Responsible Government, viz.: after Canada, which was formed into a Dominion in 1867, New Zealand (1852), Victoria (1854), New South Wales (1855), South Australia (1856), Tasmania (1856), Queensland (1859), West Australia (1890), Cape of Good Hope (1892), and Natal (1893).



CANADA.



W. H. Colmer

In a description of the representation of Canada in the home country, written for the *Canadian Magazine* by Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., Secretary of the Canadian Government's Office in London, that gentleman says "the High Commissioner for Canada is recognised as the *doyen* of the Colonial representatives in the United

Kingdom." We, therefore, commence with the present holder of that office, LORD STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL, G.C.M.G., who, born in Morayshire, N.B., in 1820, achieved distinction as plain Donald Alexander Smith. He began life in the service of the Hudson Bay Company, spending thirteen years on the Labrador Coast. He was thereafter stationed in the North-West Territories, and attained the position of Resident Governor and Chief Commissioner of the Company in Canada. For his work as Special Commissioner to the Canadian Government in 1869 in settling differences in the Red River Settlement he received the thanks of the Governor-General in Council, and in 1870 began his Parliamentary career, sitting in the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa and in the North-West Territorial Council. In 1896, the year in which he became High Commissioner, he represented Canada on the Pacific Cable Conference held in London, and in 1897 he was raised to the Peerage. What Lord Strathcona has been to Canada, and therefore to the Empire, we cannot convey here, but some conception of the great force he has exercised may be gathered from a few remarks by his predecessor in the office of High Commissioner, Sir Charles Tupper, viz., "The Canadian Pacific Railway would have no existence to-day, notwithstanding all that the Government did to support that undertaking, had it not been for the indomitable pluck and energy and determination, both financially and in every other respect, of Sir Donald Smith." Lord Strathcona's close connection with the commercial development of Canada is well known, and may to a certain extent be

gathered from the positions he occupies in addition to those mentioned. He is, to name only a few of these positions, President of the Bank of Montreal, Governor of the Hudson Bay Company, Director of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and Director of the Commercial Cable Company.

As to the office of High Commissioner, that was created in 1880 by an Act of the Dominion Parliament, which lays down that "the High Commissioner [shall act as representative and resident agent of Canada in the United Kingdom, and in that capacity execute such powers and perform such duties as are, from time to time, conferred upon and assigned to him by the Governor-in-Council; take the charge, supervision, and control of the immigration offices and agencies in the United Kingdom, under the Minister of Agriculture; carry out such instructions as he, from time to time, receives from the Governor-in-Council respecting the commercial, financial, and general interests of Canada in the United Kingdom and elsewhere."

Previous to this the Dominion was represented by a number of emigration agents appointed and stationed in different centres in the United Kingdom, the chief agent (Mr. Dixon) residing in London. "These agents"—we cannot do better than use Mr. Colmer's own words—"were more or less independent of each other, and usually reported directly to the Department of Agriculture (Canadian) to which they were attached. In 1874, however, on the decease of the London agent, it was decided to appoint an Agent-General for Canada. Mr. Edward Jenkins, who acquired fame as the author of 'Ginx's Baby,' was selected for the position, and the other agencies were placed under his supervision. The promotion of emigration still continued to be the leading feature of the duties of the Canadian representative, the aid of the late Sir John Rose, who came to be regarded as a sort of confidential agent of the Dominion Government, being invoked in connection with any matters of special importance." This state of affairs ended with the creation of the High Commissioner's office in 1880, as already noted.

The duties of the High Commissioner "are very comprehensive," availing ourselves of Mr. Colmer's concise phraseology, "and include the supervision of the interests of Canada in the United Kingdom and, incidentally, also on the continent. His first duty on arrival is to report himself to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to whom he is accredited, and by whom he is subsequently presented to Her Majesty the Queen, as the representative of the Dominion of Canada. He is not only the representative of Canada and of the Canadian Government collectively, but acts as the commercial agent of the various departments of which the Government is composed. He is the intermediary in connection with the many subjects that are continually under discussion between Her Majesty's Governments in Canada and in the United Kingdom." He sometimes negotiates loans, is the Trustee for the Sinking Funds of the various guaranteed loans, arranges the preparation and forwarding of all coinage, and in his name and the name of the manager of the Bank of Montreal are placed the deposits in London of the insurance companies doing business in Canada. Through the High Commissioner's office "the stores required by the Militia Department and the North-West Mounted Police from the War Office are arranged. The same remark applies to the shipment of all rails that may be purchased, and to the purchase and shipment of supplies for other Departments; and the accounts for all these and other services have to be paid and statements and vouchers rendered to the Departments concerned."

Apart from mere business the High Commissioner for Canada has social functions to perform, attends Congresses and conferences—indeed, he has acquired such a status that “in connection with the negotiations with Spain, and the Treaty with France, relating to Canadian trade, he was associated as a Joint Plenipotentiary with Her Majesty’s Ambassadors at Paris and Madrid.”

The Canadian Provinces of British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, besides being represented generally with the rest of Canada by the High Commissioner, have each its own Agent-General to promote their special requirements. The position of these Provincial Agents-General affords an illustration of what the position of the Agents-General for the Australian Colonies is likely to be on the completion of federation—Federated Australia represented by a High Commissioner to deal with and act for the Federal Government, the Agents-General dealing with and acting for the local or provincial Governments. This fact, already noted, is deemed of sufficient importance to warrant its repetition.



BRITISH COLUMBIA.*William Walter*

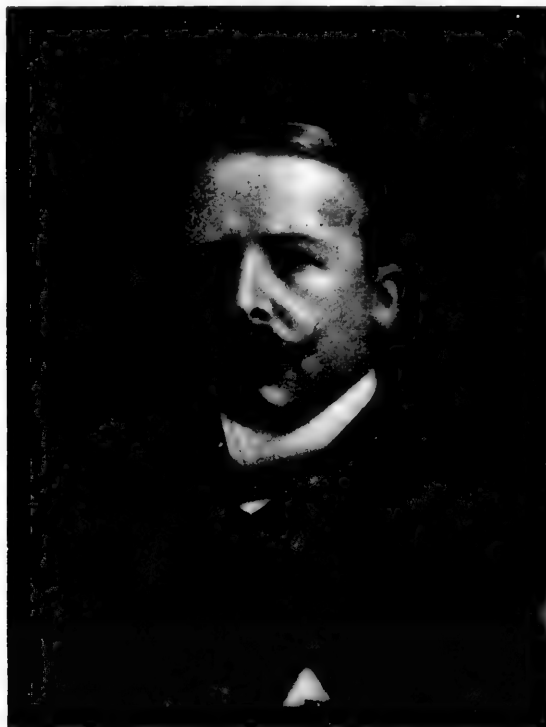
The Agent-General for this Province, Mr. WILLIAM WALTER, 15, Serjeants' Inn Temple, E.C., was appointed in 1898, being selected by reason of his knowledge of the country, and interest in it. The offices of his predecessor, Mr. Forbes George Vernon, were at Westminster, amongst the other Agents-General; but the development of the mines and other resources of British Columbia coming to depend more

upon the investment of capital than upon anything else, it was deemed advisable to have the offices in the City and the duties of the Agent-General specially devoted to influencing capital towards British Columbian investments.

British Columbia being the most westerly province of Canada, is thus far removed from the seat of the Central Government, and is separated from the rest of Canada by the Rocky Mountains. Its importance to the Dominion is exceedingly great, for its coast-line is Canada's only outlet to the Pacific. Its mild climate is in striking contrast to the severity manifested in more easterly provinces, and is one of the many other differences justifying special representation here. Its peculiar needs, for instance, could not be adequately advertised by a general representative for Canada, which is for the most part an agricultural country, whereas British Columbia is mainly a mining country. It thus appeals to quite a different class of men, both in the way of labour and capital.



NEW BRUNSWICK.

*Photo by Elliott & Fry,**Baker Street, W.*

C. A. Duff-Miller

Born at Kingston, Ontario, CHARLES A. DUFF-MILLER, the Agent-General for New Brunswick since 1896, was educated at ^{the High School} Montreal, and in England and Switzerland. His father, John Miller, was the inventor and founder of the tanning extract process, and thereby became an important factor in the development of New Brunswick, with its extensive forests of hemlock bark. Mr. Duff-Miller has

always taken an active interest in the affairs of his native Province and in the affairs of the Dominion. Through his letters to the *Times* and other organs of the Press in this country, he was the means of acquiring substantial support for what was then called the "National Policy"—a policy forced on Canada through the refusal of the United States to renew the Reciprocity Treaty, and whose aim was the protection of Canada's infant industries against the lustier growths of the States. This policy was mainly identified with the name of Sir John A. Macdonald, who marked in a special manner his sense of Mr. Duff-Miller's services. For several years Mr. Miller was in the London Scottish Regiment, subsequently joining the Princess Louise's Hussars 8th N.B. Cavalry.* His predecessor, the first Agent-General, was the late Hon. James I. Fellows.

Reference is made above to Mr. Duff-Miller's father's invention of tanning extract—an invention that has had a considerable effect upon the development of New Brunswick. It has even determined the location of the London agency, viz., in Leather Market, Bermondsey. By it the fibrous and woody matters are eliminated from the woods and barks used in the manufacture of leather, and the remaining tanning properties so concentrated that one ton of extract takes the place of seven tons of the original tan bark. This effects a great economy in carriage, and the enormous extension that has gradually taken place in the importation of tanning extract into England has enabled us to retain our great leather tanning industry in spite of our diminished supply of oak bark.

The following further particulars regarding New Brunswick and her industries and Provincial Agents-General are of interest as coming direct from the pen of Mr. Duff-Miller himself:—

"New Brunswick was the province to take the first decisive step which led in 1867 to the Federation that now forms the Canadian Dominion. Of its population of about 380,000, only one per cent. is of non-British origin. Its area is two-thirds the size of England. Chief industries—farming, fishing, the manufacturing of timber, wood-pulp for paper-making, tanning extracts, cotton goods, leather boots and shoes, furniture, &c. Large and promising deposits of petroleum have lately been found to exist in the Province.

"New Brunswick derives its name from the reigning House of England. Formerly part of Nova Scotia, it was formed into a separate province in 1783, when it received a large addition of population from the refugee Loyalists from the neighbouring English Colonies, which then became the United States of America.

"New Brunswick is not the only province of the Dominion having an Agent-General in London, the others being Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Although

* It is further & two medals served in the Militia during the troubles of 1838 the former in the

the whole of Canada is represented by a High Commissioner, the Provinces named consider it desirable to have their special and exclusively provincial interests looked after by an Agent-General. Each of the Provinces of the Dominion is a complete State in itself under the British flag, and its powers and privileges and rights are so to speak delegated or lent to the Dominion; so each has a perfect right to appoint its own representative, in addition to the Dominion Representative, and I believe this arrangement gives the utmost satisfaction to the people and Governments of the Provinces in question.

"The Agents-General are all gentlemen who have a thorough and *personal* knowledge of the particular province they represent, and who can therefore readily communicate this knowledge to others, the duties of each being to give information in regard to the varied resources of his province, to forward its special and more individual or provincial interests; to advise and assist members of the Government and other gentlemen when they visit the Metropolis of the Empire, and to help forward the objects of their visit; and in every legitimate way to make known and advance the country they represent.

"There is little doubt that the different Colonies of Australia when they federate will still retain their Agents-General in London, although they, too, as a Commonwealth or Federated Dominion, will be represented also by a High Commissioner."



NOVA SCOTIA.

Photo by London Stereoscopic Company,

Chapelade



J. Howard.

MR. JOHN HOWARD became Agent-General in 1892. He is a Nova Scotian, having been born there in 1855. He was educated in England, France, and Germany; and on returning to his native Province, embarked upon a commercial career. Before his appointment to his present position he was in the High Commissioner's office for Canada. His predecessor, the late Hon. William Annand, at one time Premier, was Nova Scotia's first Agent-General.

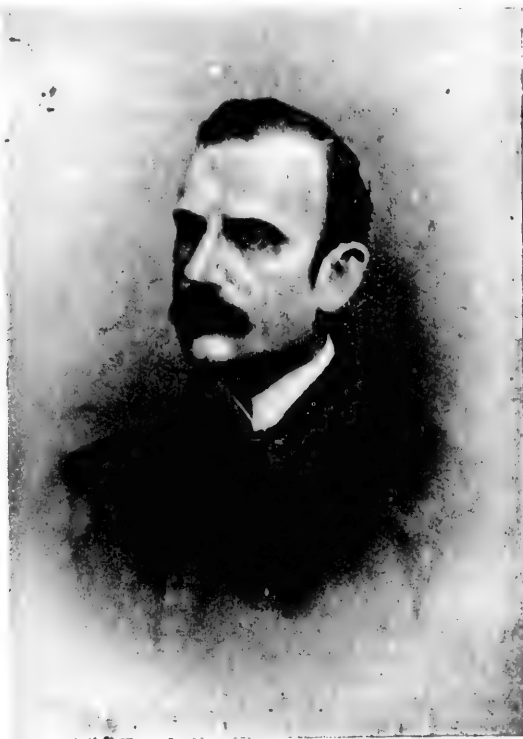
The chief duties of the Agent-General consist in promoting the individual interests of Nova Scotia, as circumstances may require, by making more generally known the capabilities and resources of the Province, and the many opportunities that occur for the profitable employment of capital in their development or in other directions, and by bringing forward the advantages it offers as a field for immigration to the better class of settlers; as well as by acting for the Government in commercial and financial matters. In respect of the latter it is satisfactory to know that Nova Scotia's credit stands high, as was evidenced by the fact that her last loan placed on the London market last August was subscribed for more than twice over despite the unfavourable state of the money market prevailing at the time. The wealth of Nova Scotia lies principally in her fisheries, minerals, lumber and agricultural products, fruit and dairying. The fisheries are perhaps best known by their variety and inexhaustible supply. The value of the fish taken annually is nearly £2,000,000, of which about £1,000,000 represents those exported. The chief minerals are coal, gold, iron (found in close proximity) gypsum, antimony, barytes, manganese, copper, and lead. The total coal area is 4,000 square miles, with an available working of forty billion tons, but the present output is only about 3,000,000 tons. Gold, hitherto not systematically worked, has in twenty-six years yielded £2,750,000. Millions of feet of lumber are shipped to different parts of the world. The Nova Scotian apple trade is an increasing and important one. About 500,000 barrels are now grown annually, a large portion of which is exported to Great Britain, and command the highest prices owing to their fine flavour and keeping qualities. The building of wooden ships was at one time a very prosperous industry, and Nova Scotia owned more shipping in proportion to population than any other country. With the introduction of iron ships, however, the industry has fallen into decay, but the attention of capitalists having been attracted by the advantages of the coal being found contiguous to iron and limestone for iron ship building, it is reported that the industry is likely to be revived. Nova Scotia, which claims the distinction of being Britain's oldest colony, having been discovered by Cabot in 1497, contains 20,000 square miles and has a population of about 500,000 inhabitants, who are known as "Blue Noses," a term which originated with Loyalists who left the revolting Colonies in 1776, being called "True Blues," but changed by the rebels into "Blue Noses" as a term of contempt. The designation is, however, accepted by every Nova Scotian as a most flattering one. Since Confederation, Nova Scotia sends 20 members to the Federal Parliament and has 10 Members in the Senate. The local Parliament consists of 38 Members and there are 21 Members in the Legislative Council. In addition to these representatives there is a perfect system of municipal government in operation in the 18 Counties. The capital of the Province and seat of the local Government is Halifax with a population of about 50,000. It is the Headquarters of the Navy and Army in British North America. Besides the regular forces quartered there the city has two Volunteer Infantry Battalions and two Artillery Corps. Its magnificent harbour is commanded by the Citadel, and numerous forts and batteries protect the entrances. The people on the seaboard are mostly engaged in fishing and are a fine hardy race, making ideal material for the formation of a reserve which could be drafted into the Naval service, should occasion require. The men engaged in the fishing industry alone number about 20,000, who in the winter months when they cannot follow their calling, might be trained so as to be efficient should they be called upon to act in support of the Empire.

In the event of war the strategical position of Nova Scotia becomes at once apparent as a base of operations in the North Atlantic for defending the great Canadian food route to the United Kingdom, and none the less important would be the coal measures, for they are practically the only source of supply across the Atlantic accessible to British ships of war. In Cape Breton some of the mines are on the coast and extend both inland and seawards, making it possible for a ship to receive direct from the pit's mouth the coal taken from below where she is moored.

NEW ZEALAND.

Photo by Russell & Sons,

Baker Street, W.



W. P. Reeves.

THE HON. WILLIAM PEMBER REEVES was appointed Agent-General for New Zealand in 1896. The son of the Hon. William Reeves, of Christchurch, New Zealand, he was born in 1857. He is a J.P. for New Zealand, and has occupied the positions of Minister of Education and of Labour and Justice in the Colony.

This Colony's London office was established in 1871; previous to that a member of a mercantile firm in London had acted for the Government. At first the Agent-General's duties consisted principally in selecting and sending out emigrants and in making the resources and possibilities of New Zealand known. This latter duty still devolves on him, and while free or assisted Government emigration has been discontinued he now has the selecting for reduced rates of passage of people desirous of going to that distant Colony to settle. The extension of public works, such as railways, telegraph lines, gives much work for the Agent-General's Department, contracts for the supply of materials for these works, and arrangements for their delivery and shipment being made by that office on behalf of all the Government Departments in the Colony. Copies of all the leading books published in this country are obtained and sent to the New Zealand Parliamentary Library. The Agent-General acts in this country for the Public Trustee of New Zealand, and for the Government Insurance Department, receiving the premiums of policy holders resident here, and paying the liabilities connected therewith when they become due. In the matter of the Colony's defence he deals with the War Office and sends out the requisite military stores. He has also the sending out of officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, for the militia and volunteers, and assists local bodies in the Colony requiring competent officers for any position. He receives his instructions direct from the Prime Minister, except in matters of finance, regarding which he corresponds direct with the Colonial Treasurer. The Permanent Secretary has a staff under him of ten clerks and messengers. Attached to the Agent-General's Department are Consulting Engineers, both railway and telegraph, also an Inspector of Produce, whose duties are to examine cargoes as they arrive from New Zealand and to report upon their condition, pointing out defects in packing, when they occur, as shown after a long voyage; thus enabling the consignors to guard against them and improve their methods of presenting their produce to the home market.

It is remarked above that the Agent-General, amongst his other duties, acts in this country for the Public Trustee of New Zealand. As this is an official much desired by many here, we add a few words as to his uses. The Public Trust Office was constituted by "The Public Trust Office Act, 1872," and its powers enlarged by "The Public Trust Office Consolidation Act, 1894." The office is designed mainly to afford, at low rates of commission, a secure and convenient recourse in every case where a person residing either in New Zealand or abroad, and desiring to form a trust or appoint an agent or attorney in the Colony, may be in doubt or difficulty as to the choice of a trustee, executor, agent, or attorney. The office is also designed to relieve those who may be appointed trustees of property in the Colony, or who, after having accepted the trusts of such property, may, for various reasons, be unwilling or unable to undertake or continue the administration. The good faith of the Public Trust Office is guaranteed by the Government, the Colony itself being pledged to maintain the integrity of all capital funds entrusted to it.

The Agent-General also acts, as mentioned, for the New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department, as to which we quote this interesting paragraph from the "New Zealand Year Book." "It has frequently been stated that the people of New Zealand carry more insurance on their lives than the people of any other country in the world, and it must gratify all admirers of thrift to know that such is the fact. The other life offices in New Zealand combined have a slightly larger amount of insurance on their books than the Government Department alone, and it is estimated that on the average every male adult carries life insurance to the extent of somewhat over £75. In addition to this, an average of between £6 and £7 is assured on the lives of females over fifteen years of age."

THE WORLD'S PRESS.

VICTORIA.

Photo by Elliott & Fry,

Baker Street, W.



Yours truly
Andrew Clarke

The Agent-General for Victoria, Lieut.-General Sir ANDREW CLARKE, R.E., G.C.M.G., C.B., C.I.E., son of Colonel Andrew Clarke, of Co. Donegal, was born in 1824.

He entered the Royal Engineers at the age of twenty, and saw active service in the New Zealand Campaign of 1847-8, and was Secretary to the Governor and Member of the Legislative Council of Van Dieman's Land. In 1853 he became Surveyor-General and Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands for Victoria, with a seat in the Legislative Council, and on responsible Government being granted the Colony in 1854, he was included in the first Ministry, having been returned Member of the Assembly for the City of Melbourne. In 1863 he resumed a military career, being engaged in the operations against the Ashantis on the Gold Coast; Director of Works of the Navy 1864-73. During the years 1873-5 he was Governor of the Straits Settlements, when he brought the Malay States of the Peninsula under the protection of Great Britain, at the termination of his tenure of office being sent on a special mission to Siam. After serving as Director of Public Works in India, with a seat in the Viceroy's Council, he became in 1881 Commandant of the School of Military Engineering at Chatham, and in 1882 Inspector-General of Fortifications. He has already represented Victoria in this country as Agent-General three times, his present or fourth filling of the office dating from January, 1897.

On being asked to describe the nature of the work of the office of Agent-General for Victoria, which office, by the way, was established in 1869, Sir Andrew replied that the subjects he has to deal with are too varied and numerous to be explained succinctly. However, he would indicate some of them generally, and leave those that heard or read to fill in what details their knowledge of the Colony and of a Government office might help their fancy to suggest.

"For instance," he said, "and speaking generally, and maybe loosely, in addition to the negotiations with the Imperial offices on subjects which affect the Colony individually or the Empire generally, such as the Pacific Cable, Mail Subsidies, New

Hebrides, negotiations regarding federation, distribution of funds to him in this country of intestate estates, &c., &c., the duties of an Agent-General comprise the buying of stores for the naval and military forces, and material for the State railways. He also receives indents for other Government stores in connection with the Post Office, light-houses, &c. One of the chief duties of an Agent-General is to disseminate information about the Colony, and advise intending emigrants. Then there is attached to this office a mining expert, specially sent over by the Victorian Government for the purpose of furnishing information relating to the mineral resources of the Colony. In this way all the Government reports and plans can be consulted by intending investors. The officer supplies information, but is prohibited from giving advice. Agriculture being a most important industry of the Colony, and large and increasing consignments being sent every week to this country, the Melbourne authorities have thought it advisable to have a branch office of the Agent-General's Department in the City, the duties of the officer-in-charge being solely that of looking after the agricultural interests of the Colony."

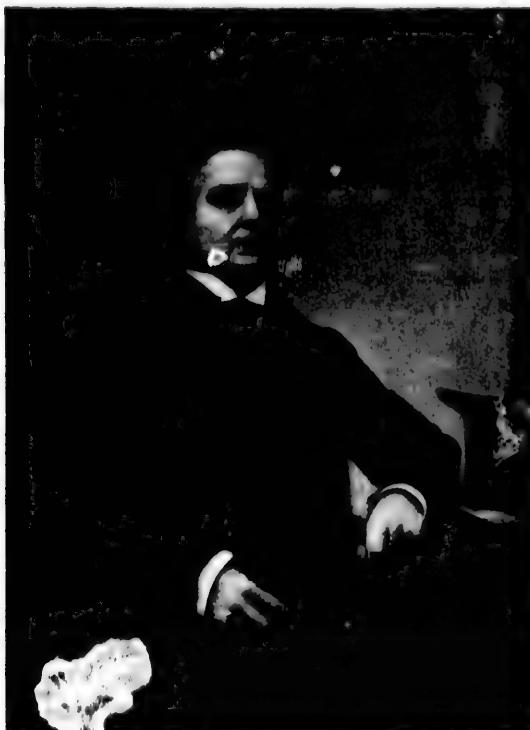
As to the New Hebrides, which Sir Andrew specifies as a question of Imperial import, a word or two of explanation may not be superfluous. The proximity of the New Hebrides to our Australian Colonies makes the future of that territory a serious question. Our colonists trade with the natives there under strict conditions, which forbid any dealings in arms, ammunition, and spirits—articles which the natives often ardently want. French traders, on the other hand, labour under no such restrictions; they have thus a great advantage over us—an advantage that will ultimately give them the ascendancy, and may result in their interests becoming so paramount as to lead them to contemplate annexation. But a great power like France next door, our colonists regard as a menace to Australasian peace—if not indeed to Australasian security, and they wish the Imperial Government to step in and do something—sole protection for choice. That is the New Hebrides question.

Another question, regarding which negotiations are now being conducted between the Imperial Government and the Agent-General for Victoria, is as to the coinage of silver. Victoria is allowed to coin gold, an operation on which there is a loss, and she naturally thinks that if she is fit to be trusted with the minting of gold—the greater—she is fit to be trusted with the minting of silver—the less. Moreover, there is a good deal of profit accruing from the minting of silver, and naturally she would like some of that profit. The Imperial Treasury hesitates conceding this request, however, and perhaps not altogether unreasonably—at any rate, until there be found some proper regulations defining the extent to which Victoria may turn out silver coins. Silver is a raw product in Victoria and comes here to be made into coin, in which shape it is sent back again. A useless expenditure, say the Victorians. Quite true; but if Victoria be allowed a free hand in coining silver, what is to prevent her flooding the Empire with half-crowns and shillings, and so getting an enhanced price for her silver? However, this coinage matter is considered by the authorities not insoluble—in fact, it is nearing a settlement.

At the Agent-General's office for Victoria there are all the facilities for visitors and callers provided at the other London Colonial offices—a library and officials to consult both by visitors here from the Colony and by those intending to go from here to the Colony and, indeed, by anyone with an object in view. Hundreds of visitors come here yearly from Victoria alone—the chief months for arrivals of those on pleasure being March, April, and May. People on business are arriving all the year round.



NEW SOUTH WALES.



Julian Salomons.

The Hon. Sir JULIAN EMANUEL SALOMONS, Q.C., took up his appointment as Agent-General in March, 1899. He was born in 1834, in Birmingham, where his father was a merchant. In 1861 he was called to the Bar (Gray's Inn), and practised in New South Wales, and on appeal before the Privy Council. He was appointed to the

New South Wales Legislative Council in 1870, with a seat in the Cabinet, and held the office of Solicitor-General. In 1886 he became Chief-Justice, and during the periods 1887-9 and 1891-3 he was Vice-President of the Executive Council and representative of the Government in the Legislative Council.

The duties of the Agent-General for New South Wales are practically the same as the duties of other Agents-General. Although no Government-assisted passages are now granted, the office is always ready and willing to answer inquiries from intending emigrants. Of course, the Agency is there for commercial people as well, to utilise as a means of obtaining needed information; and it is, accordingly, like the other Agencies, the recipient of thousands of letters per annum on all subjects. Like the other Agencies, too, it does the financial work here for its Government, negotiating loans and paying off liabilities; and it purchases stores for its Government Departments—railway and telegraphic materials, arms and ammunition for defence, &c., &c. There is no regular Inspector of Colonial Produce attached to the Department, but the Agent-General is frequently called upon by the New South Wales Government to obtain reports upon the condition of cargoes of fruit, meat, &c., as they arrive from the Colony.

Files of the Government *Gazette* and the leading Sydney newspapers are kept, also complete sets of Parliamentary papers, Statutes, Departmental reports, and so forth, and these facilities are largely availed of by business people desirous of obtaining information as to company legislation, land and mining laws and regulations, as well as the various commercial, mineral, and agricultural statistics. Much useful and valuable work is done at the Agency, towards lessening the general deficiency of knowledge of the progress and prospects of the Colony, by the extensive distribution of handbooks and other literature dealing with New South Wales. Copies of the under-mentioned publications (official) are generally available on application, viz.: Coghlan's exhaustive "Wealth and Progress of New South Wales," "Statistical Register of New South Wales," "New South Wales: the Mother Colony of the Australias," "The Seven Colonies of Australasia," by T. A. Coghlan, Annual Reports *re* Mines, Railways, Public Works, Factories, Education, &c., &c. Railway and other maps are also obtainable.

Visitors from the Colony, many of whom are business men, are afforded various conveniences, such as the receipt and forwarding of letters, registration of addresses, reference to newspaper files, and the varied official and other information available at the Agency.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA.*Photo by Elliott & Fry.**Baker Street, W.*

The Agent-General, The HON. JOHN A. COCKBURN, M.D., was born in Berwickshire in 1850, and was educated at Cholmeley School, Highgate. He studied Medicine at King's College, London, and graduated

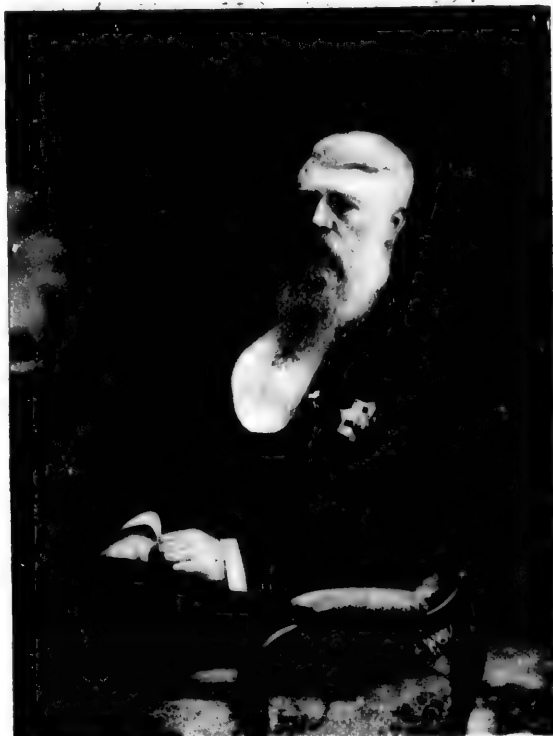
M.D., Lond. (gold medal) in 1874. He emigrated to South Australia in 1875. In 1884 Dr. Cockburn was elected a Member of the House of Assembly, and was Minister of Education from June, 1885, to June, 1887. In June, 1889, he formed a Ministry, and held office till August, 1890, as Premier and Chief Secretary. His administration was characterised by the introduction of Bills providing for Progressive Succession Duties, and a Progressive Tax on Unimproved Land Values and other advanced Liberal measures. In 1892 Dr. Cockburn was again Chief Secretary, and in 1893 he became Minister of Education and Agriculture in Mr. Kingston's Administration, and held these offices up to 1898, when he was appointed to his present position. Dr. Cockburn has attended as one of the Representatives of South Australia all the recent Conventions which have been held on the subject of Federation, viz., in Melbourne in 1890, in Sydney in 1891, in Adelaide and Sydney in 1897, and in Melbourne in 1898; he has also frequently represented South Australia at other inter-Colonial Conferences. He was the Minister in charge of the measure in the House of Assembly which in 1894 conferred upon women the rights of Parliamentary Franchise, and as Minister of Agriculture organized the Produce Export Department. In Dr. Cockburn the Colony has a representative of marked courtesy and activity.

The province of South Australia was founded in 1836. We give in Dr. Cockburn's own words the following account of the origin and work of his office. During the earlier years of the existence of the Colony the management of public affairs was largely vested in the hands of Commissioners residing in London. In 1841 the powers of the Commissioners were transferred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and South Australia became virtually a Crown Colony. In 1856 a constitution conferring the rights

of self-government was conceded, and this was followed by the appointment in 1858 of Mr. G. S. Walters as Agent-General in England. Consequent upon the death of Mr. Walters, Mr. F. S. Dutton was appointed in 1866, and held the office until his death in 1877. To him succeeded Sir Arthur Blyth, K.C.M.G., C.B., who also died in harness in 1891. Sir John Bray, K.C.M.G., followed, but resigned his position on account of ill health in 1894; shortly afterwards he died on the return voyage to Adelaide. The Hon. Thomas Playford was appointed in 1894, and filled the office with distinction for four years. During Mr. Playford's tenure of office the Agency was removed from Victoria Street, Westminster, to 1, Crosby Square, in the City. This step was rendered imperative in consequence of the Government of South Australia undertaking the inscription of its stock. From every point of view convenience has resulted from the change. The headquarters of finance, shipping, and business generally are situated in the City, and experience has shown that proximity to these greatly facilitates negotiations. The Secretary to the Agency is Mr. T. Fred Wicksteed, who is also Registrar under the Consolidated Stock Act. In connection with the office there is also an engineering staff under Mr. Strickland. South Australia has played an important part in the steps which have recently been taken towards the consummation of Australasian Federation. Its Premier, the Right Hon. C. C. Kingston, Q.C., was President of the Conventions which were held in 1897 and 1898. South Australia was the first colony in which the referendum to the electors for assent to the proposed Constitution was this year taken, and the addresses from the Legislature to the Queen praying for the enabling Imperial Act were the first to reach the hands of Mr. Chamberlain.



TASMANIA.



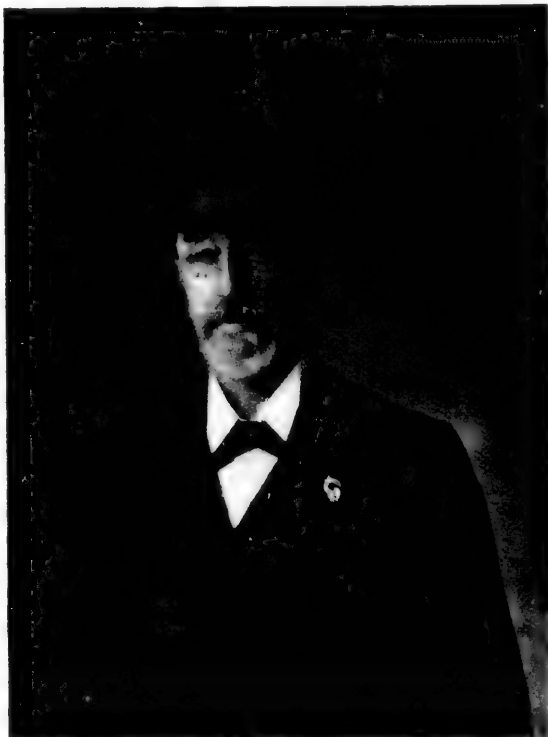
The Hon. Sir PHILIP OAKLEY FYSH was appointed Agent-General early in 1899. The son of John Fysh, King's Lynn, Norfolk, he was born in 1835, and has twice attained the position of Premier in Tasmania—in 1877 and in 1887. He also took office as Colonial Treasurer in 1873, and again in 1893. In 1876 and in 1878 he

joined the Ministries of the day without office, and during the years 1880-4 he was Major-Commanding Tasmanian Volunteer Rifle Regiment.

The Tasmanian Agency was established in 1886, the Crown Agents for the Colonies being previous to that the only representation Tasmania enjoyed here. Besides shipping stores for the various public departments in the Colony, and affording information on all matters connected with Tasmania, the Agency pays special heed to trade openings for Tasmanian produce—especially fruit. When the Tasmanian apples arrive in spring, each shipment is inspected, and a report furnished to the Government on its condition, and on the prices realised at auction. Efforts are also made to push the hard-wood timbers of the Colony in the English markets. These commercial duties are carried out by Mr. Herbert W. Ely, the Chief Clerk, whose connection with the Agency goes back to within two years of its incipency. As from the other offices of Agents-General, so from this, literature is widely distributed amongst libraries and other institutions, and lantern slides to illustrate lectures freely lent, especially to managers of Evening Continuation Schools in country districts.



QUEENSLAND.



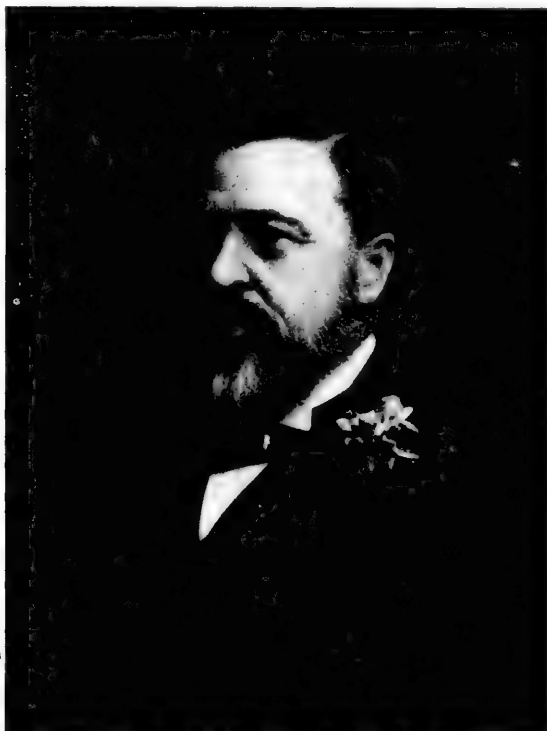
A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James R. Dickson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the portrait.

The HON. JAMES R. DICKSON, C.M.G., Premier for Queensland, is a Devonshire man, with a Scottish education and business training in Scottish banks. He went to Australia in 1854—five years previous to the establishment of responsible government—entered Parliament in 1873, became Secretary for Public Works and Mines in 1876, then Colonial Treasurer till 1879, and again

from 1883 till 1887, acting as Premier during Sir S. W. Griffith's absence in the Old Country in 1887. After travels in Europe for over two years, he again entered Queensland Parliament in 1892, in 1897 became Secretary for Railways and Postmaster-General, and in 1898 Premier.

Photo by Russell & Sons,

Baker Street, W.



Horace Tozer

The Agent-General, The HON. SIR HORACE TOZER, K.C.M.G., was appointed in April, 1898. He was born in New South Wales in 1844, and educated in Sydney,

taking to the legal profession. He was first elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1872, and again in 1888, 1893, and 1896, accepting office as Colonial Secretary (now Home Secretary) in 1892. Twice he came over to England as a lawyer to conduct mining cases before the Privy Council, and has greatly aided in the development of Queensland goldfields, in which he has large owning interests.

The Queensland Agency seems to be more actively engaged than any of the others in stimulating emigration. This is done under "The Immigration Act of 1882" (Colonial) and amending Acts of 1884, 1886, and 1887, which impose upon the Agent-General the negotiation of the best arrangements for the transport of emigrants, the selection of free emigrants, the measuring of the pecuniary assistance to be given to individual farmers in aid of their passage, the systematic distribution of information as to the Colony's resources and prospects, the organisation of emigration agencies, and suitable advertising to attract emigrants of the right kind.

It is of interest to note the methods of advertising pursued by the Agency. Stalls for the display of Queensland produce are taken at shows and exhibitions; books, circulars, and leaflets are distributed by the hundred thousand; so are maps of the Colony to public libraries, institutions, and schools; short, pithy articles are sent out for insertion in the newspapers; lantern slides are supplied to clergymen, schoolmasters and others, to illustrate lectures on the Colony with; and the Agent-General himself is always pleased, when his duties permit, to give special addresses.

The other duties of his office are thus summed up by Sir Horace Tozer: to represent the Colony in its transactions with the Colonial office; to attend to its financial arrangements with the Bank of England and local bankers, and see that all liabilities of the Colony are promptly met; to represent Queensland at conferences and other consultative gatherings—either in the United Kingdom or on the Continent—in which the political, material, or social interests of the Colony are involved; to assist producers and their commercial agents to obtain the highest price for all imports from the Colony; to arrange the best system for the purchase of materials and stores by competitive tender; for proper inspection and for forwarding at the most reasonable rates, and for the adjustment of all disputes which may arise in connection with such purchases, and to represent the various departments of the Executive Government of the Colony in all matters specially referred by them to him—such matters as were recently the subjects of the Postal Conference, Pacific Cable Conference, Coinage of Silver Conference, and Sugar Bounties Conference.

Reporting to his Government, Sir Horace Tozer compares the work of his office with the work of the other Agents-General in these terms: "Each of the Colonies is transacting the same kind of work, and I have not been able to discover that the number of people, the wealth of any particular colony, or even the quantity of material purchased for railway construction, are a basis for the quantity of work done by the several Agents-General in the metropolis. I rather am inclined to judge that Queensland, whose system involves the purchase and inspection of all its material and stores by its own officers and not by commission (as is the case with some other Colonies), and whose policy is to actively attract emigrants and capital, and which alone employs lecturers in this kingdom, and exhibits at all shows, especially agricultural, has at present the lion's share of the work."

SELL'S DICTIONARY OF
WEST AUSTRALIA.

Photo by Henry Vander Weyde,

Regent Street, W.



Edward Horne Wittenoom

The HON. EDWARD HORNE WITTENOOM was appointed Agent-General for West Australia in 1898. He had previously served his Colony as a Member of the Legislative Council, to which he was elected in 1883,

1884, and 1894. From 1894 to 1898 he occupied a seat in the Ministry as Minister for Mines and Education, and held the position as Acting Premier during Sir J. Forrest's absence at the Queen's Jubilee.

The varied nature of the work of an Agent-General's office is well illustrated by a few remarks made by Mr. R. C. Hare, Secretary to the West Australian Agency. "We have hundreds of letters a day sometimes," he said, "from all sorts of people—engineers, barristers, builders, cabdrivers—all wanting to know something which no one can tell off hand. It has, accordingly, in each case often to be hunted up, and may even involve correspondence. We are always pleased to give information respecting the Colony—indeed, it is our duty to do so." In his last report Mr. Wittenoom says:—"I have spent money liberally in endeavouring to make the Colony well and favourably known," and his statement of accounts shows that payments to the extent of over £900 were made in the year "for newspaper notices, lectures, lantern slides, &c." Attached to the Agency, too, is a Travelling Representative, Mr. E. T. Scammell, who places himself at the disposal of Chambers of Commerce, and indeed of anybody with sufficient influence to get up a meeting for him to lecture to—this he does at the Agency's charges. The Agent-General himself is always willing, when his engagements permit, to address gatherings deemed important enough to awaken special interest in regarding West Australia and her prospects. To the same end books, pamphlets, official reports and returns, newspapers, maps, plans, &c., received from the various departments in the Colony are distributed amongst public libraries and institutions, as well as to persons applying for information. On its more purely business side the Agency during the year made two applications for loans, sold and redeemed Treasury Bills (Colonial), received eighty indents relating to railway stores, stationery, Coolgardie water-works, &c., sent out emigrants, paid pensions and annuities, and appointed officials for various posts in the Colony. Now and then something out of the way, so to speak, falls to the Agency to perform; for instance, if the Colony wants pictures for an art museum, it purchases them; a couple of years ago West Australia had an observatory erected, the Agent-General had to get the plant; and, last year, when Her Majesty made a gift of four red deer to the Perth Zoological Society, the Agent-General had to ship them and see that they were sent off all right.



CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.*Photo by Elliott & Fry,**Baker Street, W.**Tennant*

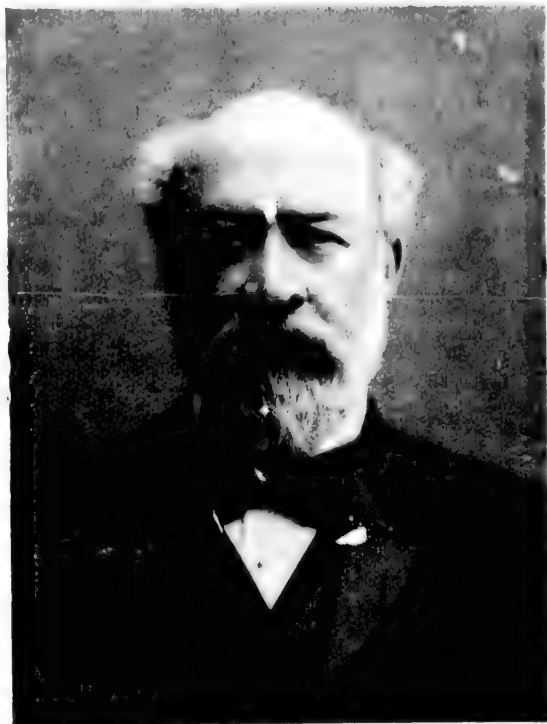
The HON. SIR DAVID TENNANT, K.C.M.G., was appointed Agent-General in 1896. The son of Hercules Tennant, at one time Civil Commissioner and Resident Magistrate in Cape Town, he was born in 1829. In 1866 he was elected a Member of the House of Assembly, becoming Speaker in 1874—a position he held till 1896. No other

man has held the Speakership of any Legislative Assembly for so long a period as Sir David.

The nature of some of the details entering into the work of an Agent-General's office is exemplified by a letter from Sir David Tennant to the Commissioner of Public Works, Cape Town. In it occurs the statement that among those selected by the Agency and sent to the Cape during the year were 81 traffic clerks and 202 trained employes of various classes for the service of the Railway Department, 16 veterinary surgeons for the Colonial Veterinary Department, an architectural draughtsman for the Public Works Department, two assistant engineers and a pile driver for the Port Elizabeth Harbour Board, four bricklayers for the Table Bay Harbour Board, a secretary for the Meteorological Commission, a charge nurse and a head laundress for the Valkenburg Asylum, and a gardener for the Botanic Gardens, King William's Town. To select suitable candidates for such varied positions as these must involve very careful judgment, especially in view of the fact that they are intended for a distant country where the conditions of life and service are quite different from the conditions under which they have been brought up and trained.



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NATAL.*Photo by Russell & Sons,**Baker Street, W.*

*Yours faithfully
Walter Peace*

SIR WALTER PEACE, K.C.M.G., Agent-General for Natal, was appointed in 1893—the year in which the office was created and the year in which responsible government was granted to the Colony. Sir Walter, like Sir John Robinson, the first Premier, is a Yorkshireman, and went out to Natal

in 1863 with a friend named North. The two worked together at farming, and then went into business as North, Peace, and Co., merchants and millers, Durban. Sir Walter's first official position was as Belgian Consul in Natal. Thereafter, having acquired an intimate knowledge of the requirements of the Colony, he returned in 1879 to England, and became Acting Emigration Officer for Natal in 1880, also Agent for the Natal Harbour Board, with an office in Finsbury Circus, London. He is the author of the work, "Our Colony of Natal," and took an active part in acquiring reduced cable rates to the Colony and its inclusion within the Imperial Penny Postage scheme. He was a Commissioner for Natal at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in 1886, and is one of the Royal Commissioners for the Paris Exhibition in 1900. Natal was for a long time a province of the Cape, but has been a distinct and independent Colony since 1856. The office over which Sir Walter Peace presides is maintained by an annual grant out of the Colony's treasury of over £4,500, his salary being £1,500 a year, and the Secretary's—Mr. R. Russell, who was born in Natal, educated at Oxford, and called to the Bar at the Temple—£450.

The Agent-General has a well-equipped suite of offices at 26, Victoria Street, S.W., where visitors from the Colony are encouraged to call, and where they may have letters sent them. As at the office of the other Colonial Governments, a visitors' book is kept for Colonists to record their London addresses in, so that communications and enquiries for them may be readily forwarded. A library containing the Parliamentary Reports, Statutes, Government publications, and other books relating to the Colony is at their disposal, and the disposal of anyone seeking information as to Natal.

As in many other of our Colonies, so in this—the Government owns and controls the railways. It stands in the same position to the harbours; then it performs functions of the kind we are more familiar with seeing Government undertake, such as postal and telegraph business. The Government is constantly needing supplies of material for the railways and harbours and other public works, and these supplies her Home Secretary (otherwise called Colonial Secretary) orders through her Agent-

General. It is the purchasing and shipment of these supplies, from pins and pen points to railway carriages and steam engines, &c., that makes the chief business in the Agent-General's office. As to the Natal Police, that is a Government force recruited in the colony, and comprises 600 whites and 800 blacks. There is also local police under the different boroughs and districts. The newspapers of Natal are the *Natal Mercury* (owned by Sir John Robinson) and the *Natal Advertiser*, both published in Durban, and in Pietermaritzburg, the capital, the *Natal Witness* and the *Times of Natal*.

The order in which the London Agencies of the Colonies have been treated in the foregoing paper has been, as already indicated, determined by the date of the grant of self-government, and is in no way affected by the importance of the Agency or of the Colony. Similarly the space allotted to each is unconnected with any formed idea of merit or of magnitude. The information has been supplied by the Agencies themselves in interviews and in writing, and the measure of information here given is according to the measure of information obtained.



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THE TRADE of the WORLD REVIEWED for the BENEFIT of BRITISH TRADERS.

EVERY THURSDAY. ONE PENNY.

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